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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,248	04/04/2001	David R. Hembree	MI22-1684\US	2645

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINH P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application N .

09/827,248

Applicant(s)

HEMBREE, DAVID R.

Examiner

VINH P NGUYEN

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 53-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 53-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3-4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because legal phraseology such as “the Present invention” is used. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

2. Claims 53-71, 74-76 and 78-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 53, it is unclear what “a circuitry of wafer” and “a circuitry of the workpiece holder” represent. Are they shown in any of drawings? In claim 54, it is unclear what “an interface” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 58, it is unclear what “an intermediate member” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 60, it is unclear how the workpiece is processed since there is no specific steps for performing the process. In claim 62, it is unclear what “circuitry of the workpiece” and “a circuitry of the apparatus” represent. Are they shown in any of drawings? In claim 67, it is unclear what “an interface” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 68, it is unclear what “circuitry of the workpiece” and “a circuitry of the workpiece holder” represent. Are they shown in any of drawings? In claim 70, it is unclear what “an interface” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 72, it is unclear what “an intermediate member” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 74, it is unclear what “circuitry of the workpiece” and “a circuitry of the workpiece processing apparatus” represent. Are they shown in any of drawings? In claim 78, it is unclear what

“circuitry of the workpiece holder” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? In claim 79, it is unclear what “an intermediate member” represents. Is it shown in any of drawings?

The dependent claims not specifically address share the same indefiniteness as they depend from rejected base claims.

3. Claims 53-67 and 73-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It appears that the specification does not have support for the limitation of “processing the wafer within the workpiece processing apparatus to form at least one semiconductor device” as recited in claim 53, the limitation of “processing the workpiece within the workpiece processing apparatus to form the semiconductor device” as recited in claim 60, the limitation of “providing a workpiece processing apparatus adapted to process a workpiece to form a semiconductor device” as recited in claim 73.

The dependent claims not specifically address share the same indefiniteness as they depend from rejected base claims.

4. Claims 53-80 (insofar as understood) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (5,475,317).

As to claims 53-80, Smith discloses a singulated bare die tester having a workpiece holder or a chuck (4,12) for receiving an electronic workpiece (2) and for supporting an electronic device (2), an electrical coupling (12a) for electrically coupling the electrical coupling (2a) of the electronic device workpiece (2) and communicated signals between the workpiece and the workpiece holder (12).

5. Claims 53-80 (insofar as understood) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagayama et al (Pat # 5,378,311).

As to claims 53-80, Nagayama et al disclose an apparatus having a wafer holder (51) for receiving a wafer (54). It is noted that the holder includes electrical couplings (57-63) for coupling to the wafer. Furthermore, it appears that the wafer inherently has electrical coupling in which the electrical couplings of the holder connected thereto.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Benjamin et al (pat # 5,708,259) disclose voltage controller for electrostatic chuck or vacuum plasma processor.

Saeki et al (Pat # 5,557,215) disclose self bias measuring method, apparatus thereof and electrostatic chucking apparatus.

Art Unit: 2829

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINH P. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 305-4914.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

  
VINH P. NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2829

03/22/2002